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March 2022 Report

Electric School Bus Ride & Drive Event in Albany

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) held a ride and drive event for State Legislators with some electric school bus manufacturers and a retrofitted diesel to electric school bus. Speakers voiced their support for electric school buses and emphasized the importance of electrifying New York's school bus fleet to improve public health, decrease our reliance on fossil fuels, and clean our transportation systems. NYLCV are advocating for funding in the 2022 State Budget to support Governor Hochul's mandate of the full electrification of New York's school bus fleet by 2035, and an equitable transition by prioritizing electrification in environmental justice and disadvantaged communities.

Support this effort and send a message to your state legislators: <https://actions.nylcv.org/a/fund-electric-school-buses>
<https://nylcvef.org/electric-school-bus-ride-drive-event-in-albany/>

Calls for Plastic Reduction and Update to Bottle Bill:

Environmentalists and local legislators are looking to bring the 40-year-old Returnable Container Act into the present day. A proposed bill from Suffolk County Assemblyman Steven Englebright and state Sen. Todd Kaminsky hope to double the fee from 5 cents to 10. Englebright and others like him believe raising that assessment would lead to extra revenue — the kind that would boost enforcement and create new redemption centers. The bill would add bottles for wine, spirits and hard cider to the list of permissible recyclables. <https://www.liherald.com/malverne/stories/its-time-to-give-up-plastic,139019>

Under new program, scientists searching for solutions after bay scallop disaster

Scientists at Stony Brook University have been granted \$240,000 in funding from New York Sea Grant to research a selective breeding program for scallops, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. The project aims to address the struggling bay scallop population in New York, which — impacted by parasites and rising water temperatures — has suffered an adult die-off every year since 2019. The selective breeding program will evaluate which scallops fare better under environmental stress, with the hope they can identify resistant strains of scallop that can be used for aquaculture restoration. <https://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2022/03/under-new-program-scientists-searching-for-solutions-after-bay-scallop-disaster/>

Suffolk County Executive Bellone Announces \$1 Million in Funding to Support Coastal Resiliency

Steve Bellone announced \$1 million dollars in funding to support the planning and implementation of the County's coastal resiliency efforts. It will be used for projects designed to reduce recurring capital expenses resulting from repeated flood damage, enhance waterfront access points to withstand flooding, and anticipate changes due to a projected increase in frequency and severity of storm events, as well as the impacts from rising sea levels. <https://www.longisland.com/news/03-07-22/suffolk-county-executive-bellone-announces-1-million-in-funding-to-support-coastal-resiliency.html>